

[24th July, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) if so, whether only selected unauthorised constructions have been pulled down by DDA/MCD in the capital during the past few months;

(c) whether any deadline has been set to remove all unauthorised constructions in the capital; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Both DDA and MCD have reported that it is not correct to say that their drive to demolish unauthorised constructions in Delhi is not successful.

(b) No, Sir, as reported by the DDA and MCD.

(c) Removal of unauthorised constructions is a continuous process. Whenever any unauthorised construction is detected, action to get it removed is taken after following due process as a part of the normal enforcement activities. In view of this, no deadline can be fixed.

(d) Does not arise.

Central resource centre to aid and advise on horticulture

137. **SHRI SURESH KALMADI:**
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to set up a central resource centre to aid and advise State Governments, Municipal Corporations and other agencies on matters pertaining to horticulture;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to encourage tree plantation in urban areas?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) On June 29, 2000, Union Minister for Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation had held an All India Conference of Horticulturists. In this conference, a proposal was put up by the Minister to set up a Resource Centre to aid and advise the State Governments,

Municipal Corporations and other development agencies dealing with matters pertaining to Horticulture and Landscaping. This proposal was approved by the said conference. Further action to set up the Resource Centre is in hand.

The Ministry of Urban Development has initiated special measures to green Urban India. It was in pursuance of this initiative that an All India Conference of Horticulturists was convened on June 29, 2000. In this Conference, all the participants from State Governments and other agencies were advised to take energetic steps to grow more trees and suitably landscape the flyover, traffic islands, and roadside avenues etc. It was also advised that 'nallahs' flowing into the cities should be planted with special variety of shrubs and trees so as to ensure that there is proper percolation of water at the ground level and at the same time no flooding takes place.

The main matter discussed and the main recommendations made with regard to them, are given in the Statement.

Statement

- i. A Central Resource Centre should be set up to aid and advise the State Governments, Municipal Corporations and other development agencies dealing with matters pertaining to Horticulture and Landscaping. A manual on the subject should also be prepared.
- ii. Around the cities, vulnerable to desert winds, shelter-beds of special design of thick trees should be planted.
- iii. Technology for transplantation of trees should be updated to ensure at least 80 percent of the success rate.
- iv. A small trees disease/surgery unit should be created in all Horticulture Departments to cure their maladies.
- v. As far as possible, trees grown in the nursery with a height of four to six metres should be planted.
- vi. In any layout plan of land and housing development, at least two and a half per cent of the cost of the project should be earmarked for landscaping and green development.

- vii. Technology to use the kitchen and garden waste to fabricate building and landscaping material should be perfected and made available to all the urban development agencies.
- viii. Indiscriminate tiling of pavements needs to be severely restricted henceforth. Tiling affects trees adversely by cutting-off moisture for the roots and suffocating the trees by completely blocking of roots aeration. In any case where tiling is desirable, only porous tiles may be used.
- ix. Extra space preferably 6x6 ft. may be created for large and old trees on the road side. All central verges should be de-choked immediately.
- x. A series of second generation trees may be chosen for plantation on the basis of their pollution control abilities including dust trapping. A list of evergreen trees suggested by the Committee may be preferred for plantation. A combination of trees, shrubs and grass should be grown.
- xi. Leaf-burning should be banned completely. Horticulture Department of Local Bodies should develop a system of composting the leaves in the nearby park.
- xii. Electric and telephone cable should be located under the curb-stone, that is, at the end of the road berm to avoid damage to the roots of the trees while carrying out the repair works.
- xiii. Our water fronts are neglected and need to be made assets by proper landscape designs and upgradation.
- xiv. Areas around heritage buildings should be suitably landscaped and beautified.
- xv. Urban void areas should not be allowed to exist and the area not required for immediate development on construction, should be made green and fenced with suitable landscaping.
- xvi. Information regarding water harvesting has to be disseminated in public and its use encouraged. It should be ensured that quality of water does not get deteriorated for which required measures are to be taken.